**NOTE:** The **News** and **Events** items on the right-hand column of this website are **RSS** feeds. Instead of maintaining mailing lists for news and events, we ask the readers of the Rocky Hill website to subscribe to the RSS feeds if they want easy access to meeting dates and agenda as well as news items. If the toolbar on your internet browser shows the orange symbol below as a button, then you may only need to click on that symbol and be lead by your browser to instructions on how you can subscribe to our feeds.

The article below is excerpted from an article posted on the Qscend website, the company that hosts the Rocky Hill website.

## RSS 101: A Quick Feed Tutorial

### What are content feeds?



Feeds are a way for web content managers to distribute their content to more people than just visitors to their websites. Feeds permit subscription to regular updates, delivered automatically via a web portal, news reader, or in some cases good old email. These are often called RSS feeds.

### What is the benefit of RSS feeds?

RSS (Really Simple Syndication) not only makes it easy for web content managers to publish updates to websites, but also for Internet users to nearly effortlessly keep track of their favorite websites without having to remember to check each site manually or clutter up an email inbox.

## How do RSS feeds work?

When web content managers post information to a content feed, the RSS feed immediately notifies anyone who has subscribed to that feed that new information has been posted. Using a

feedreader, or news aggregator, or a email client equipped with an RSS reader, subscribers review the newest posted information in a glance when they are ready. RSS content can be syndicated in text form, or in audio and video form (podcasts).

#### What is the bottom line for consumers?

Subscribing to feeds makes it possible to review a large amount of online content in a very short time, without having to bounce around to one website after another.

# What is the bottom line for publishers?

Feeds permit instant distribution of "subscribable" content and eliminate the worry of outdated email address on e-newsletter lists and email spam filters. Your information gets through to every feed subscriber every time an update is posted.

## How do you subscribe to RSS feeds?

You can subscribe to RSS feeds in a number of ways. There are stand-alone readers that can be downloaded to your computers or mobile devices. There are online readers to which you can register, Web browsers that pull bookmark feeds, and tools that pull the feeds into e-mail programs.

## What Web browsers provide easy access (subscribing) to RSS feeds?

Web browsers that allow you to create "live bookmarks" include <u>Internet Explorer 7</u>, <u>Firefox</u>, and <u>Safari</u>.

# What are some popular online readers?

Popular online RSS feed readers or news aggregators include <u>NewsGator</u>, <u>Rojo</u>, <u>NewsIsFree</u>, <u>Pageflakes</u>, <u>Google Reader</u>, and <u>Yahoo</u>. With Google and Yahoo, your RSS feeds can appear on your personalized home pages.

## What are some popular RSS reader applications?

Popular RSS reader applications are FeedDemon (by NewsGator), and Illumio.

## How can I get RSS feeds in my email box?

Get your RSS feeds in your email inbox with <u>SendmeRSS</u> (watch a great RSS explanation video here), <u>RSSFWD</u>, and <u>Feedmailer</u>. <u>NewsGator</u> also features an add-on for Outlook.

# What are some popular podcast aggregators?

Popular podcast readers are iTunes and Juice.

Written by Ed Dzitko, Director of Training and Education

**Qscend**